

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10
JUSE-00 NSAE-00 CTME-00 SNM-05 TRSE-00 ICA-11
OES-07 OMB-01 AGRE-00 AID-05 ICAE-00 SSO-00
NSCE-00 INRE-00 L-03 /078 W
-----099399 041140Z /20

O R 041000Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7253
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USUN NEW YORK 725
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KABUL 2557

SECSTATE ALSO FOR AID; ISLSMABAD FOR RLA ZARR; PARIS FOR DEA

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR, EAID, AF
SUBJECT: VIOLATION OF THE US-AFGHAN ANTI-OPIUM AGREEMENT
FOR THE DAUG JUI PROJECT

REF: (A) STATE 071421 (B) 77 KABUL 5379

1. SUMMARY. THE U.S. MISSION TO AFGHANISTAN PROPOSES TO WITHHOLD U.S. GOVERNMENT FINANCING FROM THE DAUG JUI IRRIGATION PROJECT IN KONAR PROVINCE BECAUSE OPIUM POPPIES ARE GROWING IN THE PROJECT AREA, AND, DESPITE REPEATED WARNINGS FROM U.S. OFFICIALS, THE GOVERNMENT OF AFGHANISTAN (GOA) HAS BEEN EITHER UNWILLING OR UNABLE TO HAVE THEM DESTROYED. END SUMMARY.

2. IN SPITE OF WRITTEN ASSURANCES FROM THE GOA THAT IT WOULD NOT PERMIT OPIUM POPPIES TO BE GROWN WITHIN THE PROJECT AREA OF THE DAUG JUI IRRIGATION PROJECT OF THE GOA'S RURAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT (RDD) -- ASSURANCES WHICH WERE GIVEN IN ORDER TO
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QUALIFY THE PROJECT FOR A \$44,781 SHARE OF USAID FINANCING (REFTEL B), OPIUM POPPIES ARE NEARING THE HARVEST STAGE IN SEVERAL PLOTS WHICH HAVE BENEFITED FROM THE PROJECT. U.S. OFFICIALS MADE AN ORAL COMPLAINT TO RDD PRESIDENT MIR MOHAMMAD SEDDIQ ON JANUARY 28, AND THIS WARNING WAS FOLLOWED BY AN OFFICIAL LETTER TO SEDDIQ FROM THE USAID DIRECTOR ON FEBRUARY 12. SEDDIQ LATER TOLD USAID THAT HE HAD REQUESTED THE GOVERNOR

OF KONAR PROVINCE TO COOPERATE, BUT U.S. OFFICIALS CONTINUED TO SEE POPPIES DURING SUBSEQUENT VISITS TO DAUG JUI.

3. ON MARCH 28, THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR ADVISED AFGHAN NARCOTICS COORDINATOR MOHAMMAD YAHYA MAROOFI THAT DEA OFFICIALS WOULD BE PERFORMING A FINAL OFFICIAL INSPECTION OF DAUG JUI THE FOLLOWING DAY -- AND THAT, IF POPPIES WERE SIGHTED, THE US GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE TO WITHHOLD ITS SHARE OF THE FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT, AS THE USAID DIRECTOR HAD WARNED SEDDIQ IN HIS LETTER OF FEBRUARY 12 (A COPY OF WHICH HAD BEEN SENT TO MARROFI). MAROOFI EXPRESSED RESIGNATION, AND EXPLAINED HOW DIFFICULT IT IS FOR THE AFGHAN CENTRAL GOVERNMENT TO ENFORCE ANTI-OPIUM BANS IN SUCH TOUGH FRONTIER TRIBAL REGIONS AS KONAR PROVINCE -- ESPECIALLY WHEN THERE IS NO VIABLE ECONOMIC ALTERNATIVE TO OFFER THE FARMERS.

4. ON MARCH 29, DEA REPRESENTATIVES VISITED THE DAUG JUI PROJECT AREA AND INDEED FOUND SEVERAL POPPY FIELDS, MANY OF WHICH WERE ALREADY BLOOMING -- AND, THEREFORE, NEAR THE HARVEST STAGE.

5. THAT SAME DAY, MAROOFI DISCUSSED THE PROBLEM WITH THE DCM, ASKING WHETHER IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR USAID TO PROVIDE EVENTUALLY THE \$44,781 SHARE SCHEDULED UNDER THE PROJECT AGREEMENT IF THE GOA WOULD ENSURE THAT, STARTING WITH THE 1978/79 CROP YEAR, OPIUM POPPIES WOULD NOT BE GROWN IN THE PROJECT

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AREA. MAROOFI SAID THE CROP SEASON THIS YEAR WAS TOO ADVANCED TO ENABLE POPPY FARMERS TO GROW ALTERNATIVE CROPS IF THE FIELDS WERE TO BE DESTROYED NOW. THE MISSION GAVE THE REQUEST THOROUGH CONSIDERATION IN VIEW OF THE STRATEGIC DESIRABILITY OF KEEPING THE USG DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE OPIUM PROBLEM OF THIS MAJOR PRODUCTION AREA. IT WAS DECIDED, HOWEVER, THAT THIS RESPONSE WAS NOT ACCEPTABLE BECAUSE: (A) THE GOA HAS CLEARLY VIOLATED THIS ANTI-OPIUM AGREEMENT, AND WE SHOULD EMPLOY A PROPER REACTION IN THIS SMALL PROJECT TO PROVIDE A CLEAR SIGNAL TO THE AFGHANS THAT WE ARE DEAD SERIOUS ABOUT ILLICIT POPPY PRODUCTION, ESPECIALLY THAT US TAXPAYERS' FUNDS NOT BE USED TO GROW THIS NARCOTIC; (B) EVEN IF WE HAD THE LEGAL LATITUDE TO AGREE TO DEFER PAYING THE SCHEDULED US SHARE OF THE PROJECT COSTS UNTIL NEXT YEAR, THERE IS NO ASSURANCE POPPIES WOULD NOT BE GROWN IN THE AREA IN FOLLOWING YEARS. OUR OPEN-ENDED, ONWARD MONITORING EACH YEAR OF THE AREA COULD BE A POTENTIAL SOURCE OF BILATERAL IRRITATION. THEREFORE, THE MISSION HAS INSTEAD DECIDED TO OFFER TO BE FORTHCOMING IN THE FUTURE IN CONSIDERING OTHER SIMILAR RDD PROJECTS IN KONAR PROVINCE.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 KABUL 2557

SECSTATE ALSO FOR AID; ISLAMABAD FOR RLA ZARR; PARIS FOR DEA

6. IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING CONSIDERATIONS, THE MISSION PRO-
POSES TO HAVE THE UAAID DIRECTOR SEND THE FOLLOWING LETTER
TO SEDDIQ, IF THE DEPARTMENT PERCEIVES NO OBJECTION:

BEGIN TEXT
DIPL. ENG. MIR MOHAMMAD SEDDIQ
PRESIDENT
RURAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
MINISTRY OF STATE
KABUL

DEAR MR. SEDDIQ:

WITH REFERENCE TO MY LETTER OF FEBRUARY 12, 1978, CONCERNING
THE CULTIVATION OF OPIUM POPPIES WITHIN THE TERRITORIAL LIMITS OF
THE US-ASSISTED DAUG JUI RURAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT (RDD)
IRRIGATION PROJECT IN KONAR PROVINCE, AS WELL AS OUR SUBSEQUENT
CONVERSATIONS ABOUT THIS MATTER, THIS LETTER IS TO INFORM YOU
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THAT OFFICIAL U.S. OBSERVERS VISITED THAT AREA ON MARCH 29, 1978,
AND FOUND OPIUM POPPIES IN BLOOM. THEY REPORTED THAT SOME POPPY

FIELDS WERE NEARLY READY FOR INCISION FOR THE HARVEST OF OPIUM GUM. A VIOLATION OF OUR MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING NO. 3 OF AUGUST 3, 1977, HAS THEREFORE OCCURRED.

SINCE LAND IMPROVED BY THIS PARTICULAR RDD PROJECT WAS UTILIZED TO PRODUCE OPIUM DURING THIS CROP YEAR, U.S. GOVERNMENT FINANCING WILL BE WITHHELD FROM THE PROJECT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR STRICT NATIONAL POLICY AGAINST USING U.S. FUNDS FOR THE SUPPORT OF OPIUM PRODUCTION. MY GOVERNMENT DEEPLY REGRETS THAT IT HAS BECOME NECESSARY TO TAKE THIS ACTION.

WE ARE WILLING, HOWEVER, TO CONSIDER NEW AND SEPARATE RDD PROJECTS IN THE KONAR REGION IN THE FUTURE, PROVIDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF AFGHANISTAN SO WISHES AND CAN ARRANGE TO ENFORCE A TOTAL OPIUM-PRODUCTION PROHIBITION IN THE DISTRICT TO BE IMPROVED.

SINCERELY,
CHARLES R. GRADER
DIRECTOR

(MARKED ON ORIGINAL)

CC: MR. MOHAMMAD YAHYA MAROOFI
CHAIRMAN
JOINT COMMISSION ON AFGHAN NARCOTICS MATTERS
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
KABUL

END TEXT

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7. RECOMMENDATION: THAT THE DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZE THE EMBASSY TO SEND THE LETTER PROPOSED ABOVE. AN EARLY ANSWER IS REQUESTED IN VIEW OF THE NEED TO HAVE EVIDENCE CLEARLY PRESENT IN THE DAUG JUI FIELDS WHEN THE LETTER IS DISPATCHED TO SEDDIQ.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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